

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Shiller, Marla <Marla.Shiller@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 9:37 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony Concerning Judiciary Committee Bill: HB 6187 and SB 1128

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing April 1, 2015
Testimony Concerning Judiciary Committee Bill: HB 6187 and SB 1128

Dear Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to express my **SUPPORT of HB 6187 and SB 1128**, to prohibit Accelerated Rehabilitation in animal cruelty cases."

I am a concerned citizen who cares deeply about animals. Animals can't vote, but since I can, I feel obligated to serve as their voice in the political process and express why **HB 6187, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS** and **SB 1128 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE** need your support.

There is an undisputable correlation between cruelty to animals and violence against people, *particularly women and children*. In order to protect these vulnerable lives, strong laws and advocacy are necessary. At this point in time there is no real deterrent in Connecticut for those who commit crimes of cruelty to animals. Accelerated rehabilitation is not enough. It does nothing to prevent future occurrences, and we are unable to track recidivism because there are no records of the offenders. Offenders can continue to commit such acts and can be hired to work with vulnerable populations because their offenses will not show up on a background check. Do we really want to take that chance?

Time and again, Connecticut has been in the forefront of legislation and practices to protect the rights of its residents. We serve as examples for other states and for the federal government. As a lifelong resident of this state, I take great pride in that and am very grateful to the lawmakers who have made it possible. Yet we rank only 12th in our animal protection laws.

I know we can do better. I want to be able to take the same pride in our support of animal protection rights. Please help me to make this happen.

Sincerely,
Marla Shiller
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